H A R A M B E E

FLAME

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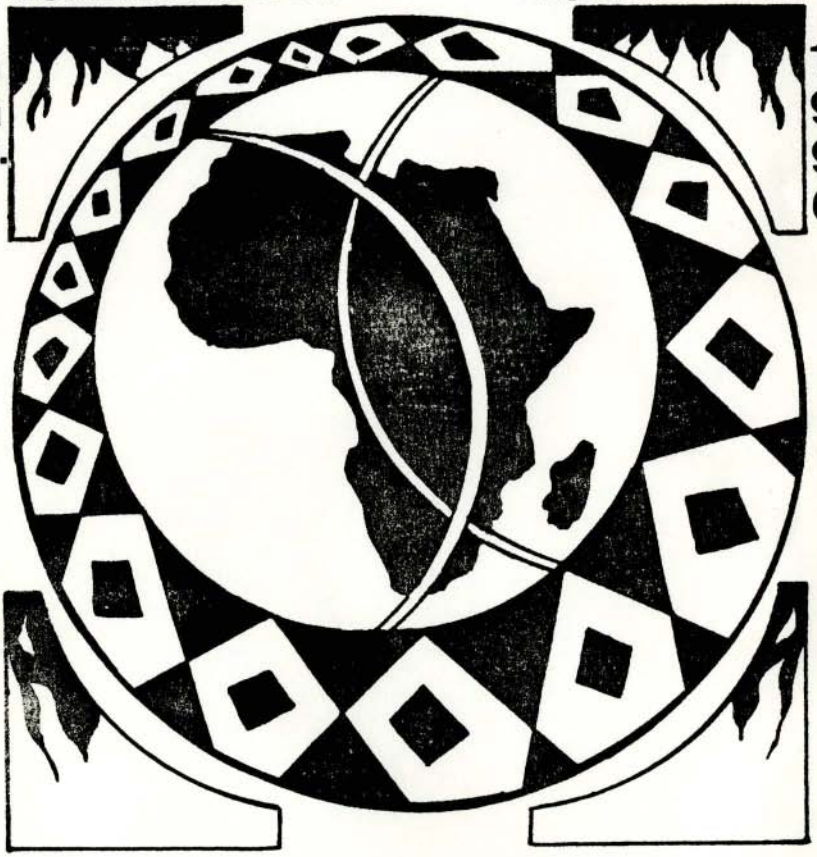

In This Issue:

EDITORIAL: You Bleed When The White Man Says Bleed; BACK IN TIME: Distance Between African Men & African Women In U.S., Controversy Surrounds Sculpture, Etc., FBI On King; SHORT STORY...

"YOU BLEED WHEN THE WHITE MAN SAYS 'BLEED'"

That's what Malcolm said. And he continued, reminding us of how violent we were as soldiers in WWII, in Korea, and in Viet Nam. And he questioned how it could be that we would be so violent on behalf of Uncle Sam while being so non-violent on our own behalf as our churches were being bombed, as the police dogs were being turned on us, and as so many other atrocities were being heaped upon us by American racists. Malcolm accused us, saying that we "bleed for the white man" but that, when it comes time for us to defend ourselves, we "have no blood." This was a powerful indictment that Malcolm laid on us and one that was essentially accurate. But Malcolm was not just cracking on us for the hell of it. He was trying to get us to see the absurdity of our willingness to kill and be killed as soldiers for the U.S. on one hand and our unwillingness to do anything more than make verbal protests and carry signs against racist assaults against ourselves right here "at home" on the other.

On page 10 of this edition of the FLAME, there is an article, "CIA Cargo Plane Crashes In Angola," which indicates that there may be U.S. military personnel operating in Angola to assist the murderous Unita guerillas in their ongoing assaults against both the Angolan government and the Angolan civilian population. In the recently completed U.S. invasion of Panama, somewhere between 400 and 7,000 civilians (depending on the sources of information) were killed--many, if not most, of whom were African. In the U.S. invasion of Grenada on October 25, 1983, it was again people of African descent who were among the victims (The population of Grenada is almost totally African.). In the cases of Panama and Grenada, there Africans among the U.S. military forces. If there are U.S. military personnel operating in Angola, it is lik-

ely that there are American-born Africans among their numbers. In covert operations, it's convenient to have enemies looking like friends.

The so-called "black press" in the U.S., as well as other organizations of African people here, our African politicians, etc. are quick to rail against - and justifiably so - "black-on-black" crime in U.S. African communities. But what is it when American-born Africans in the U.S. military kill other African people in the course of U.S. invasions of foreign lands? Is this not "black-on-black" crime? But we do not hear the strident African voices about this kind of crime.

U.S. history is packed to the proverbial brim with invasions and occupations of foreign lands, with the installing and toppling of governments, and other forms of interference in the affairs of sovereign nations. African journalists in this country know this, African newspaper publishers, African politicians, etc. They know this and know that Africans, as U.S. soldiers, have often taken part in these acts of aggression. Yet, the "black press" continues to treat the enlistment on the parts of our sons(and daughters) into the U.S. armed forces as something laudable. It continues to congratulate Africans for achieving high rank in the services as if there were something positive about an African rising to the "top"(in relative terms) in the military apparatus of a government that maintains a racist and imperialistic foreign policy.

All this brings to mind that point in the late Martin Luther King's life when he arrived at the conclusion that the U.S. war against Viet Nam was unjust and began to speak out against that war. There were Africans in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference(SCLC), the NAACP, and in other civil rights groups;who frantically ran for cover when Martin opened his mouth on this issue. Some of these "leaders" were more incensed by Martin's stand against the war than Uncle Sam himself.

But of course Malcolm didn't just talk about blood and bleeding. He spoke of "house negroes" and "field negroes" and how, if the master's house was burning, the "field negro" would be hoping for the house to burn to the ground and would be looking for some kerosene while the "house negro" would be more frantic than the master about saving the master's house and be running around screaming, "Our house is burning."

Sisters and Brothers who heard Malcolm speak such words would laugh. And why shouldn't they have? Isn't the utterly ridiculous laughable? But they could only laugh because they felt distance between themselves and the people and times of chattel slavery. They could say to themselves that they certainly wouldn't have been among those who would have felt the master's house was their HOUSE. But Malcolm was not, in speaking about the "house negro" and the "field negro," just taking some romantic stroll through the past. He was using the past to talk about his present.

There are areas in Panama City, mostly those areas which house(where there are houses left standing) the poor, which are just thoroughly gutted. Those African folks who live, or lived there must have thought to themselves, as they looked at the faces of the African soldiers from the U.S. who were blowing their neighborhoods away, "Am I your enemy?" Doesn't the same question occur to us when we look into the faces of African drug-dealers and /or gang members as they blow away our young innocents in their territorial battles in our neighborhoods?

Caucasian America has a president who is trying to deal with an image problem. His advisers told him that people think of him as a wimp. The Panama adventure was his way of ealing with his image problem. Reagan's advisers told him that folks perceived him as all tough talk and no action. He used Grenada and Libya to deal with his image problem and, in so doing, put America "back in the

saddle again."

Ever since its defeat at the hands of tiny Viet Nam, the U.S. government, regardless of administration, has had this chip on the shoulder of its body politik and has looked hard for countries - ver small countries - to try to knock it off. And it has gotten it's opportunities for muscle-flexing. Panama is simply the most recent example. There probably will be more. But our blood is more valuable than a presidential image or a state department image or a pentagon or any other of such images. Our blood is precious.

Here it is, 1990; 25 years since Malcolm's death. And, unfortunately, what he said then is still true now--we "bleed when the white man says 'bleed.'"

FBI EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT KING

(In view of the fact that, this month, we are observing the anniversary of Martin Luther King's birthday, we print the following passages from "Behind The Red-Baiting Of Martin Luther King," which appears on pages 7 and 9 of the Jan. 10 THE GUARDIAN.)

"Assistant FBI Director William Sullivan in his book 'My Thirty Years in Hoover's FBI' described the inner circle of men assigned to get King. 'There were, at the top, no fewer than 14 men with high-ranking positions who not only never objected to the investigation of King, but because of Hoover's pressure were vigorously behind it'. Sullivan coordinated a shadowy group called the Seat of Government committee formed in 1963. The group was made up of special agents mainly drawn from the Washington and Atlanta FBI offices and assigned to track all of King's activities...

"During the Labor Day weekend in 1957, King and Ralph Abernathy traveled to the Highlander Folk

(Cont. on p. 13)

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HARAMBEE FLAME, the monthly publication of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization (parent chapter of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization, Inc.), is a pan-Africanist newsletter. The FLAME's priority, with respect to news and views, is African people, events and developments which affect us and are, or should be, of concern to us. The FLAME does not recognize any distinction between African people based solely on place of birth. References in the FLAME to African people are made on the basis of our common ancestry. An exception to this is the reprinting of articles, or excerpts thereof, from other publications, in which cases we do not alter "black" or other terms designating African people. This is our practice because we do not wish to diminish the integrity and authenticity of the articles we excerpt from.

Articles contained in the FLAME do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization unless they are accompanied by a statement identifying the views as being those of the organization. Generally speaking, all unsigned articles are by the editor, Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa (aka David Rice).

We encourage you to submit articles to the FLAME. Please enclose with your submission a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Articles should not exceed 900 words, though longer pieces will not be automatically rejected. Short stories are subject to the same restriction with respect to length. We also welcome poetry and graphics. We are looking for poems which address African folks' lives, the conditions we face, and our struggles to rise above those things which hinder us. We are not looking for poems which sacrifice power and beauty for the sake of uniform rhythm and/or rhyme. Send submissions to the editor c/o HARAMBEE FLAME; P.O. Box 2500; Lincoln, NE; 68502-0500.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

Economic And Other Problems Contributing To Distance Between Men And Women In U.S. African Communities

"...'The pool of eligible black men for black women gets smaller and smaller the further they go up the educational and career ladder', explains Joyce Ladner, a sociology professor at Washington D.C.'s Howard University who has done extensive research on African-American women. In recent years the social gap has widened considerably as the educational distance between black men and women has increased...

"This social distance is aggravated by the accelerating deterioration in the plight of the black male...

"Black women's organizations are among the few groups seeking...solutions. For example, conferees at the recently concluded Black Women's Political Action Forum held in Washington, D.C., were surprised to find the problems of the black male as an agenda item for the first time in the group's history. The forum is a joint undertaking of four of the most prominent sororities among African-Americans--Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta--and has historically limited its range of concerns to matters related mostly to college-trained black females...

"In WOMEN AND CHILDREN LAST: THE PLIGHT OF POOR WOMEN IN AFFLUENT AMERICA, sociologist Ruth Sidel condludes that unemployment among black males is the primary reason for the skyrocketing growth in families headed by black women...

"The University of Chicago's Wilson has also done

research on what he terms a 'male marriageable pool index'(MMPI). Wilson has found that young, inner-city black women--like their older college-educated counterparts--are confronting a shrinking pool of economically stable, or 'marriageable', men.

"Black women with children are among the poorest segments of this society, but, according to a study by the NEW ENGLAND ECONOMIC REVIEW, almost as large a percentage of the black female population was employed in 1984 as that of white females, and their median income was 90 percent that of white women's. By contrast, the study continued, just over 59 percent of all black men had jobs, compared with more than 72 percent of white men, and their median income was 32 percent less than that of white male workers..."

-From "Men Not The Only Victims Of Problems Vexing Blacks," which appears on pages 6 and 10 of the Dec. 20-Jan. 9 IN THESE TIMES(Chicago, ILL)

Sculptor's "Burrhead" Is Subject Of Controversy

"...the Hampton Arts Commission rejected the statue offered by African artist Hugh Harrell. The rejected sculpture, entitled 'Burrhead', is a large statue depicting the African as a thinker. Brother Harrell...said that the Hampton Art Commission's rejection is only one of several offers turned down by various institutions and public officials. Besides the city of Hampton, Virginia, Howrad University in Washington, D.C. also refused the offer. At present Brother Harrell is fighting the Baltimore City Parks Commission to allow Burrhead to be placed in Druid Hill Park.

"The major points of contention surrounding Burrhead is the fact that it is unmistakenly African in its facial features and it is nude...

"Hugh Harrell, who did his first drawing at the age of four, revealed two other incidents that describe the plight of African artists and their work. The first incident occurred when Hugh was commissioned by Princeton University to produce a large statue for the campus grounds. Brother Harrell sculptured a figure of a woman, African in appearance, that he named 'Trope'. So offended were the University officials that they ordered the head of the statue cut off and had it replaced with a head that was decidely un-African. The other incident happened in Hampton when one of the statues of Burrhead that was previously accepted by the city was buried in a trash-filled land dump by a payloader...Hugh Harrell's motivation for wanting to do Burrhead was a reaction to the statue by Rodin called 'The Thinker'. To Harrell and his former wife, actress Bea Richards, Rodin's statue seemed to embody the European supremacist notion that only European people were capable of thinking..."

-From "Burrhead," which appears on page 8 of the Fall edition of THE NKRUMAIST(Chicago, ILL).

Groups In Milwaukee Make Kwanzaa Concrete

"Alderman Marvin Pratt announced that smoke detectors will be installed in the northside homes (on) Thursday, December 28(1989)...

"The volunteer effort, called the Ujima Installation Project,...is named for one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa...

"Kwanzaa is celebrated December 26 through January 1. The third day of Kwanzaa, December 28, is Ujima, which means 'collective work and responsibility'...

"In this spirit, members of the North Division Neighborhoods, Inc., the League of Martin and the

Brotherhood of Black Firefighters will join Alderman Pratt at Greater Galilee Baptist Church... The group will then install smoke detectors at homes that need them..."

-From "Alderman Pratt Sets Installation Day For Smoke Alarms," which appears on page 1 of the Dec. 23 MILWAUKEE COURIER.

Houston Competes With Miami In Police Killings Of African Residents

"...the Miami Police Department...throughout the 1980s has been stung by disclosures of corruption linked to Latin American drug trafficking and repeated well-documented findings of its excessive use of force against African-Americans.

"Meanwhile, the Houston Police Department...has also been beset by drug-related corruption, and racist and sexist violence.

"Within the last two months, two Houston police officers shot and killed two blacks...

"Police officer Alex Gonzales was charged with shooting the 50-year-old Black woman. According to police, Gonzales was off-duty, driving a private car and wearing civilian clothes when he and two other officers, who had been drinking together, forced Delaney's car to the side of the road, where she was shot to death.

"On Nov. 15, Byron Gillum, an African-American man, was stopped for a traffic violation by officer Scot Tschirhart and shot four times in the back. Tschirhart, described by fellow officers as 'a jerk who thinks he's Rambo', has killed three Black people in seven years on the force."

-From "Killer Cops In Miami And Houston," which appears on pages 3 and 9 of the Dec. 20 THE GUARDIAN(N.Y., N.Y.).

CIA Cargo Plane Crashes In Angola

"An escalation of U.S. involvement in Angola took a catastrophic turn Nov. 27 when a CIA cargo plane full of weapons bound for Jonas Savimbi's antigovernment forces crashed and burned, killing at least seven people, including four U.S. citizens.

"The crash, which took place near Jamba, Angola, is believed to have been the first CIA supply flight to Savimbi's Unita guerillas after a 5-month suspension. Jamba, in southeastern Angola, is Savimbi's stronghold...

"'We've learned that some of the personnel killed on the plane were in fact U.S. military advisers. A small expeditionary force of U.S. advisers, similar to the ones in El Salvador, has been deployed to southern Angola', Rev. Ben Chavis, head of the Angola Foundation, told the Guardian...

"According to published reports, pilot error or mechanical problems caused the C-130 transport, capable of carrying 38 tons of cargo, to crash. Among the dead were an English pilot, Michael John Atkinson, a veteran of CIA arms airlifts, and at least four U.S. citizens, variously described as CIA or Pentagon employes. If Pentagon employment is confirmed--assuming it is not a cover for CIA employment--it could indicate that small 'low intensity warfare' military units have been secretly dispatched to Angola..."

-From "New CIA Aid Exposed By Angola Plane Crash," which appears on page 14 of the Dec. 27 THE GUARDIAN(N.Y., N.Y.).

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$7 per year

(Cont. on p. 14)

POETRY/STORY/GRAPHICS

"Night Of The Living Bread"

It was nearly midnight. I was walking home from the party and wearing corduroy pants when, seemingly from out of nothingness, came this frightening noise, a bizarre kind of scream, something emanating from what must have been the furthest depths of evil. My feet screeched hard against the concrete and eyes spun wild, looking in every direction at once. I saw nothing out of the ordinary but could sense an ominous presence. I renewed my walking but cautiously, listening and watching out intently for anything unusual.

Almost within a half a block from my house, I heard the noise again and this time smelled an aroma which seemed strangely familiar. Something in me told me, pleaded with me not to turn around. I didn't heed the warning. There it was, this large, vague shape in the dark of the night, moving toward me. It looked to be rectangular, like a flat box. Trying to run and turn myself back around at the same time, I tripped and fell to the sidewalk. Somehow, despite my fear, I felt this unquenchable urge for some black-eyed peas. I could practically taste them bad boys. Why black-eyed peas at such a time?

As I lay on that sidewalk wanting to get home but being kept immobile by the thought of those black-eyed peas, I remembered what my grandmother had told me years ago--"Dear, wash your hands after you go to the bathroom." I'll never forget that. In the meantime, the form was getting closer to me. The noise again, only this time muffled. It sounded like a human scream--from inside the shape. I trembled like somebody shaking. The fear was in me for certain, but so was the appetite for some of those peas.

A car cruised by and its headlights illuminated the oncoming object just long enough for me to

notice an arm and frantic hand reaching out from inside of it. I tried to smoothe out a wrinkle in my pants and then threw up. I struggled to my feet and started to run when something hit me from behind, knocked me over, and ran over my butt. It was some dude. He ran down the street in an awful big hurry, leaving a trail of some kind of particles behind him. A bunch of them had fallen on me when I was knocked over. Plucking a few of the particles from the back of my neck and sniffing them, I thought I knew what they were. The knowledge sent my heart into a spasm and a chill into my bones.

I made an effort to get to my feet, but it was upon me, throwing its crumbs against my face in a frenzy of murderous intent. It was an end piece and the hard edge-crust kept butting me against my head. I was fighting hard, fighting for my life, but had never before had to defend myself against giant cornbread. There I was, struggling for my very life and screaming for help. I knew somebody must have heard me, but no one came to my aid. I just knew I was doomed. We battled all the way to the corner where my house is. Cornbread crumbs all over the place. It was terrible--the mess we made. Finally, in a desperate move, I kicked the cornbread in the lumps. It doubled over in pain and then fell over backwards. Like a turtle on its back, it tried in vain to get topside. I turned from it and, after fumbling nervously with my keys, unlocked the door to my house and went in, slamming the door behind me.

While I sat on the bathroom floor fanning myself with the toilet seat, I got this inclination to call my cousin, Jamie Lee(We call him "Roscoe" for short.). I ran to the phone in the bedroom and dialed his number. It rang about a dozen times before Roscoe answered, trying to say, "Jamie Lee's residence, 'Roscoe' for short." Struggling to breathe, he finally got it out. Then, the words, amidst considerable gagging and the sounds of furniture being thrown around,.....

(Cont. on p. 14)

COMMUNITY NEWS

On December 30, from 5:30-8 p.m., the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization held its fifth-day Kwanzaa observance, in recognition of nia/purpose, at the Nebraska State Prison in Lincoln. In addition to the Kwanzaa ritual, which was presided over by Larry Scott, inspirational talks were delivered by Darwin Robinson(Askari), Eddie Chambers, and Vickey Parks. Eddie Chambers, who is a high-school guidance counselor in Omaha and whose brother Ernie is the only African member of the Nebraska Legislature, also did a performance on marimba and drum machine in which he used traditional African rhythms as a foundation for improvisation. The Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization expresses its thanks to the dozen Sisters and Brothers from the outside who attended the observance and its disappointment in those twenty or more who had confirmed that they would attend but did not show up. It expresses its thanks and appreciation to the members of the organization who went into their own pockets to purchase the bulk of the food.

KING

School in Tennessee...For years, the school had a favorable reputation with Blacks for its pioneering work in civil rights and economic reform. A number of Black activists had attended training workshops and classes at the school, earning Highlander the enmity of Southern whites...

"King was at the school just long enough to sing a few songs, greet a few friends, and get his picture taken...The picture showed King seated next to Aubrey Williams, president of the Southern Education Fund, and Abner Berry, a member of the Communist Party's National Committee. For years, the Highlander picture was widely distributed by right-wing groups with the caption 'Martin Luther King..

(Cont. on inside back cover)

Inclusion Of African History In School Curricula

Not Only Being Sought By Africans In U.S.

"...a conference on the national curriculum history working group interim report and its implications for black and ethnic minorities (was) held at Walthamstaw Town Hall (in) London Borough of Waltham Forest...

"The report...concluded that insufficient attention had been given to the needs of black people as they relate to teaching history. All four speakers emphasised the need for a dimension of black people's history to be included in the national curriculum...

"David Sparks told the conference (that)...as those who called for immigration control based their reason on the large black population in Britain, but as soon as there is a suggestion to meet their special needs, suddenly that population is considered to be too small...

-From "Black People And The National Curriculum," which appears on page 12 of the Dec. 22 - Jan. 4 NIGERIA HOMENEWS(London).

.....

"Night Of The Living Bread"

"c-c-collard greens"! Silence followed, a space, before I heard the belch, a belch which had come from no human throat.

-Mondo

BACK IN TIME

"The BOOK ON NATURE, renamed 'PERI PHYSEOS' by so-called 'Greek Philosophers', was used by Greek students who were interested in the study of nature. This same work these students were supposed to have written. But the earliest copies of said work are dated no further back into antiquity than the 16th century B.C.E.(before the current era). Yet, 'PERI PHYSEOS' is written in a style that indicates an origin which had to have existed at least around c. 2000 B.C.E. or earlier, at which time the people of Hellas(Pyrrhus or Greece) were not engaged in this height of High-Culture or civilization, nor in such intellectual advancement, because they were not yet a nation until approximately c. 1000 B.C.E. at the earliest. However, within the pages of 'PERI PHYSEOS' most of the doctrinal basis of the philosophical concepts it teaches are plagiarized versions from the works of the Egyptian and Nubian Mysteries System; the source whence the forerunners of so-called 'Greek Philosophy' got their education... The teachings in this work remained the exclusive domain of '...THE CENTER OF CULTURE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD...', which was Egypt and Nubia - up until Egypt's conquest by Alexander II('the great') in c. 332 B.C.E. This was equally true until Aristotle and his school of Greek students compiled the indigenous African works of Egypt they found in the Mysteries System's libraries of the Osirica and claimed to be their own."

Source: BLACK MAN OF THE NILE AND HIS FAMILY
by Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan, page 327.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Black Classic Press has performed a very valuable service by initiating a project to reprint the works of Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan, who is among the most learned and insightful of scholars in the study of African history. Thus far, Black Classic Press has reprinted BLACK MAN OF THE NILE AND HIS FAMILY, AFRICA: MOTHER OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, and ABU SIMBEL TO GHIZEH(an Afrocentric tour guide for folks traveling to Egypt). For information on other books published by Black Classic Press, write to them at P.O. Box 13414-C; Baltimore, Maryland; 21203. Tel. no. (301)728-4595.

Radio station KZUM(89.3 fm), a non-profit, community-access station in Lincoln, does a number of programs which feature African people's music, including African-American classical music("jazz") reggae, blues, traditional and contemporary music from Africa, etc. For those who appreciate and enjoy African-American classical music("jazz"), there is "Post-Ayler 'Jazz,'" which airs from 12:30 to 2:30 on Thursday afternoons. This program, hosted by Felipe Medcalf, features genuine African-American classical music, without any of the instrumental pop music that is so frequently passed off as "jazz." This is not the station's only "jazz" program but is certainly among the best.

Third World Press announces the publication of BLACK MEN: OBSOLETE, SINGLE, DANGEROUS? by Haki Madhubuti. "Madhubuti addresses a spectrum of issues impacting the African American male, including: fatherhood, male/female relations, AIDS, economics and power issues. BLACK MEN includes chapters examining the work of three positive Black male role models - Hoyt Fuller, Dr. Bobby Wright, and Malcolm X." Also available, THE STORY OF KWANZAA by Safisha Madhubuti. This book is "a primary level reader offering a luminous and concise introduction to the origin and tradition of Kwanzaa." -TWP; 7524 So. Cottage Grove; Chicago, ILL; 60619.

at Communist training school'.

"Hoover, convinced that he had already uncovered King's communist influences...named several SCLC Southern Christian Leadership Conference) organizers and financial supporters that he felt had direct Communist ties and labeled two of them 'top' party leaders. In August 1963 Hoover ordered Sullivan to draw-up a plan to expose the Communist Party's hold over SCLC...

"(In December)The FBI unveiled a sweeping plan to conduct surveillance on all SCLC employes, monitor SCLC funds and track down its contributors. Sullivan also hinted that the FBI would target the SCLC office for full-scale monitoring.

"...In April 1964, an FBI official even asked Sullivan for permission to prevent Yale and Springfield College from conferring honorary degrees on King. He indicated the FBI had successfully stopped Marquette University from honoring King..."